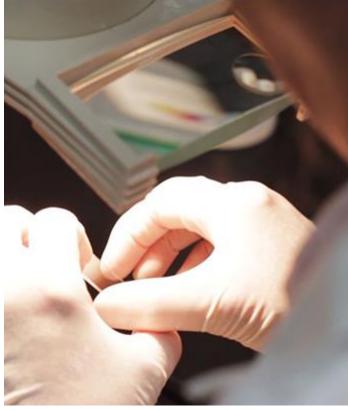# Health & Commerce Weekly Pandemic Webinar Series

December 2, 2020

This information in this presentation is current as of December 1, 2020. This is an ongoing situation and information is subject to change. The information contained is not comprehensive but meant to give a basic overview, for further information on anything below visit the resources listed, contact ACCD, or contact the Vermont Department of Health.

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STEPS TO TAKE IF SOMEONE TESTS POSITIVE

- **If you learn of a positive case at your business**, contact the Health Department's Infectious Disease Epidemiology team. Call 802-863-7240 (Mon - Fri 7:45 a.m. - 4:30 p.m, choose Option 3, outside those hours, choose Option 7).

- If **you are contacted by the Health Department because a risk has been identified at your business**, the team will walk you through the next steps.

- If you believe **your establishment has been exposed to COVID-19**, please call the Health Department at 802-863-7240.

- The team will follow up with everyone who tests positive, calculate the period of time when they were contagious, and find out what locations they visited during that time. The team works hard to determine which locations may have been at risk, based on their expertise and knowledge of how the virus spreads. You can learn more about the steps the Health Department takes(link is external)to quickly respond when someone tests positive.

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COVID-19 RESOURCE CENTER FOR BUSINESSES

https://accd.vermont.gov/covid-19

- Mask Mandate: https://accd.vermont.gov/covid-19/restart/masks

- Cross State Travel Map & Information: https://accd.vermont.gov/covid-19/restart/cross-state-travel

- Sector Guidance: https://accd.vermont.gov/content/stay-home-stay-safe-sector-specific-guidance

- Work Safe Guidance: https://accd.vermont.gov/news/update-new-work-safe-additions-stay-home-stay-safe-order

- Work Safe FAQs for Businesses: https://accd.vermont.gov/covid-19/business/stay-home-stay-safe-business-faqs

- Unemployment Information: https://accd.vermont.gov/covid-19/business#unemployment

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ONLINE RESOURCES FOR BUSINESSES

- Resources for Business (ACCD)
- Stay Home Stay Safe FAQs for Businesses (ACCD)
- Businesses and Employees (VDH)
- Close Contacts & Contact Tracing (VDH)
- COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions (VDH)
- General Business Frequently Asked Questions (CDC)
- When to Quarantine (CDC)
- COVID-19 Employer Information for Office Buildings (CDC)
- Ventilation and Coronavirus (COVID-19) (EPA)
- Disinfectants for Coronavirus (COVID-19)
- Prevent COVID-19 (VDH)

DOCUMENT RESOURCES FOR BUSINESSES

- What to do when your co-worker has COVID-19 (VDH)
- What do I do if my employee tests positive for COVID-19? (VDH)
- What to do if you are a close contact of someone who is diagnosed with COVID-19? (VDH)
- What is isolation, quarantine and self-observation? (VDH)
- Waiting for COVID-19 test results? (VDH)

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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What happens if an employee tests positive?

- Whenever someone tests positive a member of the Contact Tracing Team will reach out to them, go over isolation and work with them to determine who they may have had close contact with.
- If an employee was at work while infectious, someone from the Health Department will also reach out to the business to let them know and work with them to determine the next steps.

Is a negative test needed before someone can return to work?

- Proof of a negative COVID-19 test should not be required to return to work if you have been diagnosed with COVID-19 or are under quarantine.
- The Health Department cannot provide documentation for people to go to work or to stay home.

What to do if an employee or customer tells you that they have tested positive for COVID-19?

- Have them call the Health Department at 802-863-7240

Does an employee need to quarantine if they live with someone who is in quarantine?

- No, you do not need to quarantine if you had close contact with someone who is under quarantine.
- If you are living with someone who is under quarantine, stay at least 6 feet from them. People under quarantine should wear a mask in common spaces, use a separate bathroom, eat separately, and otherwise not be in close contact with others in the household who are not under quarantine. Be sure to disinfect commonly touched surfaces and check yourself for symptoms for 14 days.

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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Does an employee need to quarantine if they live with someone who is in isolation?
- In situations where you **cannot** avoid close contact with someone with COVID-19, you should stay home and away from other people while the person you are caring for is sick. You should also quarantine for 14 days **after** they are able to end home isolation.

Should all employees get tested?
- In general the Health Department does not recommend broad testing of employees, but because each situation is unique, if someone was at your business while infectious the Health Department will work with you and discuss testing.

Does an employee need to stay home if they are getting tested?
- If they are being tested because they have symptoms of COVID-19, are a close contact to someone who has COVID-19, or were recommended for testing, they should stay home and not go out in public even if they are not feeling sick.
- See Waiting for COVID-19 test results? For more information

If an employee leaves the state, do they need to quarantine?
- The Health Department strongly advises against non-essential travel, even within Vermont. All travel to and from Vermont requires quarantine, the only exception is essential travel.

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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Who will be able to get vaccinated once a vaccine is available?
• The Vermont COVID-19 Vaccine Planning site provides detailed information on Vermont's vaccination plan including working on identifying priority groups.

Are there signs available for businesses to use?
• On the VDH COVID-19 Resources page there is a section with Posters and Infographics

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DEFINITIONS

Close Contact
Close contact means being within 6 feet, for a total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period, of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 during their infectious period.

Testing Positive for COVID-19
Diagnosis is based on a positive laboratory test. There are many other diseases that can have symptoms like COVID-19, but only people who receive a positive laboratory test are considered to have COVID-19

Contact Tracing
When a person tests positive for COVID-19, staff from the Health Department reaches out to them to see who they were in close contact with while they were infectious. Contact tracing is used to provide education, support and guidance to people who are diagnosed with COVID-19. It is also used to identify people who have been in close contact with them, so they can take steps to stop the disease from spreading to others.

Infectious Period
This is the time during which someone infected with COVID-19 has the potential to spread it to others. The infectious period starts two days (48 hours) before any symptoms begin, or for people who did not have symptoms, two days before they got tested and continues until they recover.

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DEFINITIONS

Isolation

Isolation is when people with COVID-19 stay home, and away from other people, until they have recovered, to prevent further spread. Learn about the timeline for people with COVID-19 (with symptoms and without symptoms) from being exposed to being released from isolation.

Quarantine

Quarantine is for:

- people who were in close contact with someone sick with COVID-19 (day 1 of your quarantine starts the day after you were last in contact with them)
- Vermonters who travel out of state (day 1 of your quarantine starts the day after you return to Vermont)
- people with no symptoms who are visiting Vermont (day 1 of your quarantine starts the day after you arrive in Vermont)
- people who have gathered with another household (day 1 of your quarantine starts the day after the gathering)

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CONTACT THE VERMONT DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Sign up for the Vermont Department of Health <u>Weekly COVID-19 Update</u>

PHONE: 802-863-7240
Monday - Friday 8:15 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Saturdays & Sundays 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Outside those hours, leave a message and your call will be returned.

For general questions (not health-related):
CALL: 2-1-1
CALL: 1-866-652-4636.
EMAIL: AHS.VDHPublicCommunication@vermont.gov.

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